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RED MOUNTAIN G-E-M

RESOURCES AREA

(GRA NO. CA-12)

TECHNICAL REPORT

(WSA CA 050-132)

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Final Report

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ATTACHMENTS
(At End of Report)

CLAIM AND LEASE MAPS

Patented/Unpatented

Oil and Gas

MINERAL OCCURRENCE AND LAND CLASSIFICATION MAPS (Attached)

Metallic Minerals

Uranium and Thorium

Nonmetallic Minerals

Geothermal

LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE SCHEME

CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

MAJOR STRATIGRAPHIC AND TIME DIVISIONS IN USE BY THE U.S.
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Red Mountain GRA includes the towns of Leggett and Cummings in northern Mendocino County, California; it is about fifty miles north of Ukiah. There is one WSA in the GRA: CA 050-132.

Most of the rocks of the GRA are marine sediments of Jurassic to Cretaceous age (about 100 to 190 million years old) including in part the Franciscan Formation. Between two faults is a body of ultrabasic intrusive rocks of unknown age, about three miles by six miles in extent, which contains the nickel-chromium-cobalt deposits that are the only known mineral resources of the area.

There is no known established mining district in the GRA, but Red Mountain and Little Red Mountain have been known to have chromite deposits for many years, and at least 100 tons of chromite ore have been shipped. Drilling by at least three major mining companies over the past thirty years is said to indicate 30 to 40 million tons of material with about 0.8% nickel and values in cobalt and chromium. All three are strategic and critical metals.

There are no patented claims in the GRA. There are a great many unpatented claims, essentially covering all unpatented ground in a band about six miles long north-south and two miles wide east-west and covering about the central one-third of WSA CA 050-132. They completely cover the rock type that has potential for nickel resources. To the east and west on different rocks there are no claims.

There are no oil and gas, geothermal, or sodium and potassium leases, and no known material sites in the GRA or WSA.

The known nickel-bearing material occurs in three separate areas of the GRA, all classified as having high favorability with a high level of confidence for nickel, cobalt and chromite resources. The edges of all three of these areas extend into WSA CA 050-132, though they lie mostly outside the WSA. The remainder of the middle part of the WSA is classified as having moderate favorability with a low level of confidence for nickel, cobalt and chromite. The eastern, northwestern and southwestern parts are classified as having no known favorability for metallic mineral resources with a very low confidence level.

The entire GRA and WSA are classified as having no known favorability for uranium or thorium resources. There is a very low level of confidence in this classification. The entire WSA has low favorability for nonmetallic minerals, with a low level of confidence in this classification.

The entire GRA and WSA are classified as having no known favorability with a high confidence level for oil and gas, coal, tar sands or shale oil and for sodium and potassium.

The entire GRA and WSA are classified as having low favorability, with a very low level of confidence, for geothermal resources.

An effort should be made to obtain information on the nickel, cobalt and chromium resources of the WSA from the U. S. Bureau of Mines and private industry.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Red Mountain G-E-M Resources Area (GRA No. CA-12) contains approximately 88,000 acres (356 sq km) and includes the following Wilderness Study Area (WSA):

WSA Name	WSA Number
Red Mountain	050-132

The GRA is located in California in the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Eureka Resource Area, Ukiah district. Figure 1 is an index map showing the location of the GRA. The area encompassed is near 39°55' north latitude, 123°45' west longitude and includes the following townships:

T 24 N, R 16, 17 W
T 23 N, R 16, 17 W

The areas of the WSAs are on the following U. S. Geological Survey topographic maps:

15-minute:

Legget

7.5-minute:

Noble Butte
Legget

Bell Springs
Tan Oak Park

The nearest town is Leggett which is located in the central area of the GRA on U. S. Highway 101. Access to the area is via U. S. Highway 101 between Piercy and Cummings. Access within the area is by way of numerous unimproved roads northeast of Highway 101 and on Mail Ridge Road in the eastern area of the GRA.

Figure 2 outlines the boundaries of the GRA and the WSA on a topographic base at a scale of 1:250,000.

Figure 3 is a geologic map of the GRA and vicinity, also at 1:250,000. At the end of the report, following the Land Classification Maps, is a geologic time scale showing the various geologic eras, periods and epochs by name as they are used in the text, with the corresponding age in years. This is so that the reader who is not familiar with geologic time subdivisions will have a comprehensive reference for the geochronology of events.

This GRA Report is one of fifty-five reports on the Geology-Energy-Minerals potential of Wilderness Study Areas in the Basin and Range Province, prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by the Great Basin GEM Joint Venture.

The principals of the Venture are Arthur Baker III, G. Martin Booth III, and Dennis P. Bryan. The study is principally a literature search supplemented by information provided by claim owners, other individuals with knowledge of some areas, and both specific and general experience of the authors. Brief field verification work was conducted on approximately 25 percent of the WSAs covered by the study.

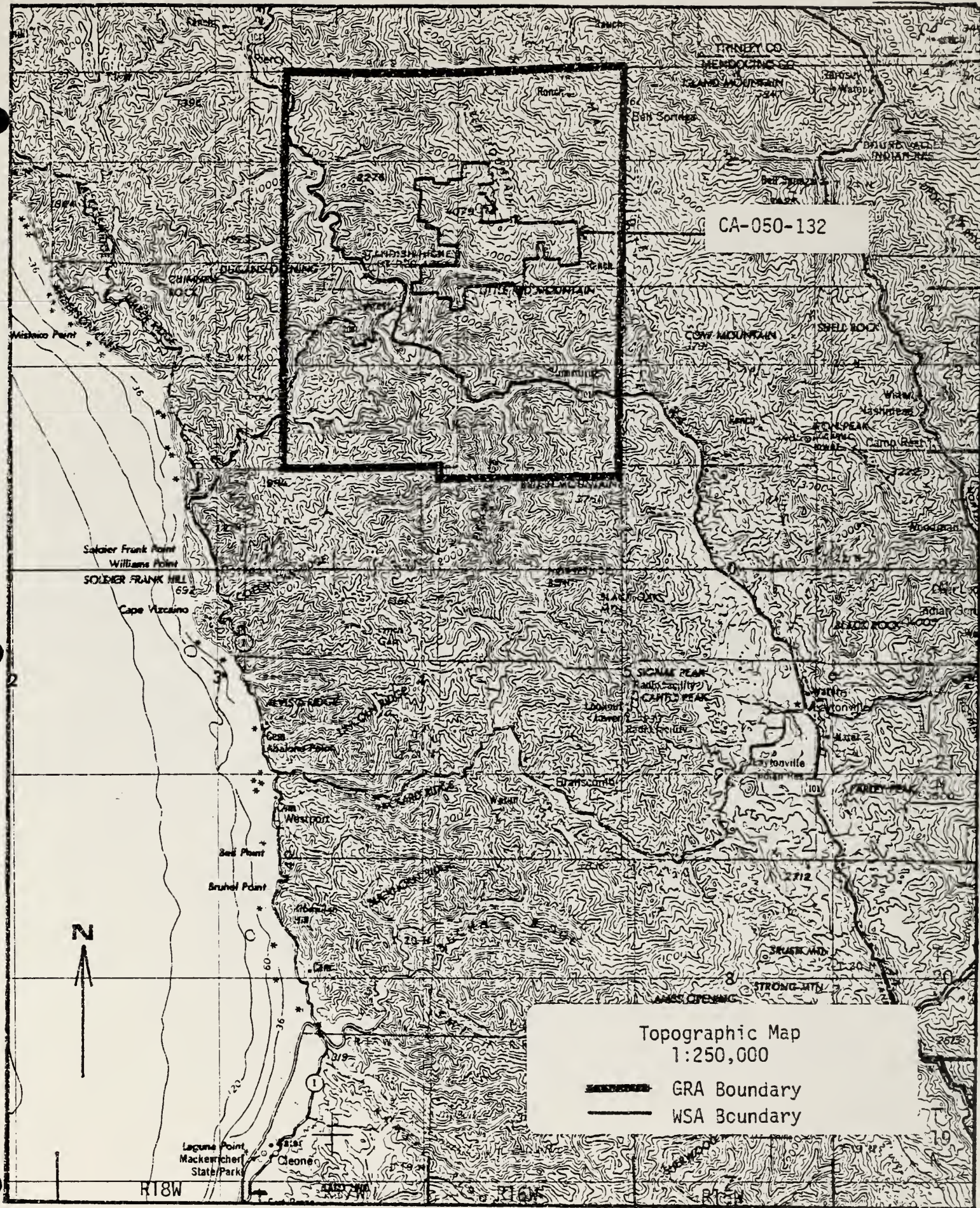
None of the WSA in this GRA was field checked.

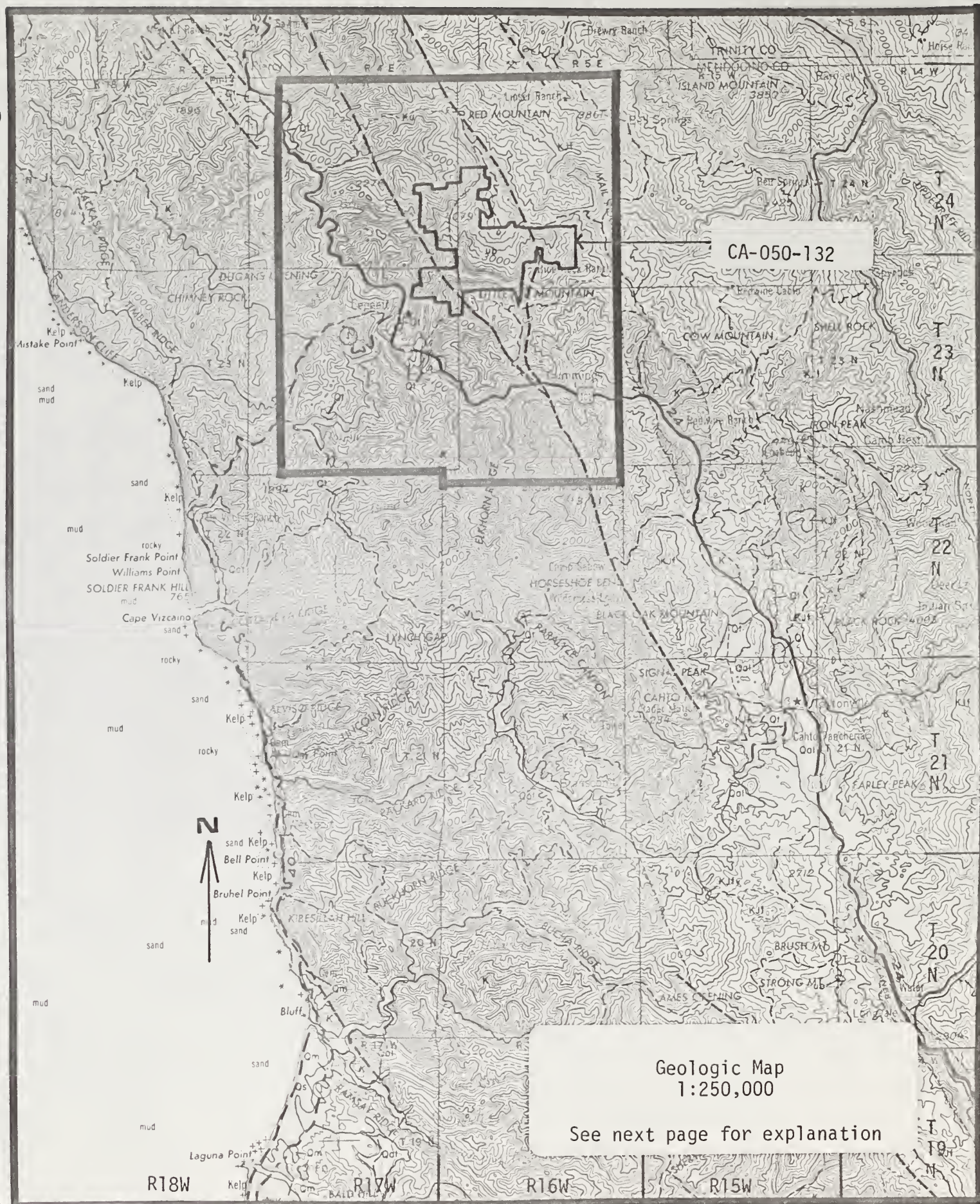
One original copy of background data specifically applicable to this GEM Resource Area Report has been provided to the BLM as the GRA File. In the GRA File are items such as letters from or notes on telephone conversations with claim owners in the GRA or the WSA, plots of areas of Land Classification for Mineral Resources on maps at larger scale than those that accompany this report if such were made, original compilations of mining claim distribution, any copies of journal articles or other documents that were acquired during the research, and other notes as are deemed applicable by the authors.

As a part of the contract that resulted in this report, a background document was also written: Geological Environments of Energy and Mineral Resources. A copy of this document is included with the GRA File to this GRA report. There are some geological environments that are known to be favorable for certain kinds of mineral deposits, while other environments are known to be much less favorable. In many instances conclusions as to the favorability of areas for the accumulation of mineral resources, drawn in these GRA Reports, have been influenced by the geology of the areas, regardless of whether occurrences of valuable minerals are known to be present. This document is provided to give the reader some understanding of at least the most important aspects of geological environments that were in the minds of the authors when they wrote these reports.



FIGURE 1. GRA INDEX MAP OF REGION 3 1:5,000,000





EXPLANATION

SEDIMENTARY AND METASEDIMENTARY ROCKS

IGNEOUS AND META-IGNEOUS ROCKS

CENOZOIC

TERTIARY

QUATERNARY

Recent	Os	Dune sand	GREAT VALLEY
	Qal	Alluvium	
	Qsc	Stream channel deposits	
	Qf	Fan deposits	
	Qt	Basin deposits	
Pleistocene	Qst	Salt deposits	
	Ql	Quaternary lake deposits	
	Qg	Glacial deposits	
	Qtr	Quaternary nonmarine terrace deposits	
	Qm	Pleistocene marine and marine terrace deposits	
	Qc	Pleistocene nonmarine	
	QP	Plio-Pleistocene nonmarine	
	Pc	Undivided Pliocene nonmarine	
	Pcc	Upper Pliocene nonmarine	
	Pu	Upper Pliocene marine	
Pliocene	Pmic	Middle and/or lower Pliocene nonmarine	
	Pmi	Middle and/or lower Pliocene marine	
	Miocene	Mc	Undivided Miocene nonmarine
		Muc	Upper Miocene nonmarine
Mu		Upper Miocene marine	
Mmc		Middle Miocene nonmarine	
Mm		Middle Miocene marine	
MI		Lower Miocene marine	
Oligocene	Oc	Oligocene nonmarine	
	O	Oligocene marine	
Eocene	Ec	Eocene nonmarine	
	E	Eocene marine	
Paleocene	Epc	Paleocene nonmarine	
	Ep	Paleocene marine	

8



Recent volcanic: Qrv' —rhyolite;
Qrv^a —andesite; Qrv^b —basalt;
Qrv^p —pyroclastic rocks



Pleistocene volcanic: Qpv' —rhyolite;
Qpv^a —andesite; Qpv^b —basalt;
Qpv^p —pyroclastic rocks



Quaternary and/or Pliocene
cinder cones



Pliocene volcanic: Pv' —rhyolite;
Pv^a —andesite; Pv^b —basalt;
Pv^p —pyroclastic rocks



Miocene volcanic: Mv' —rhyolite;
Mv^a —andesite; Mv^b —basalt;
Mv^p —pyroclastic rocks



Oligocene volcanic: Ov' —rhyolite;
Ov^a —andesite; Ov^b —basalt;
Ov^p —pyroclastic rocks



Eocene volcanic: Ev' —rhyolite;
Ev^a —andesite; Ev^b —basalt;
Ev^p —pyroclastic rocks

		EXPLANATION CONT.	
Cenozoic	Ep	Paleocene marine	
	Qtc	Cenozoic nonmarine	Q ^v Cenozoic volcanic: Q ^v - rhyolite; Q ^v - andesite; Q ^v - basalt; Q ^v - pyroclastic rocks
	Tc	Tertiary nonmarine	T ^g Tertiary granitic rocks
	Tl	Tertiary lake deposits	T ⁱ Tertiary intrusive (hypabyssal) rocks: T ⁱ - rhyolite; T ⁱ - andesite; T ⁱ - basalt
Tertiary	Tm	Tertiary marine	T ^v Tertiary volcanic: T ^v - rhyolite; T ^v - andesite; T ^v - basalt; T ^v - pyroclastic rocks
MESOZOIC	K	Undivided Cretaceous marine	
	Ku	Upper Cretaceous marine	K ^v Franciscan volcanic and metavolcanic rocks
	K	Lower Cretaceous marine	g ⁱ Mesozoic granitic rocks: g ⁱ - granite and adamellite; g ⁱ - granodiorite; g ⁱ - tonalite and diorite
	JK	Knoxville Formation	b ⁱ Mesozoic basic intrusive rocks
	Ju	Upper Jurassic marine	ub Mesozoic ultrabasic intrusive rocks
	Jml	Middle and/or Lower Jurassic marine	J ^{trv} Jura-Trias metavolcanic rocks
	T	Triassic marine	
	m	Pre-Cretaceous metamorphic rocks (ls = limestone or dolomite)	mv Pre-Cretaceous metavolcanic rocks
	ms	Pre-Cretaceous metasedimentary rocks	g ^{rm} Pre-Cenozoic granitic and metamorphic rocks
	IP	Paleozoic marine (ls = limestone or dolomite)	IP ^v Paleozoic metavolcanic rocks
PALEOZOIC	R	Permian marine	R ^v Permian metavolcanic rocks
	C	Undivided Carboniferous marine	C ^v Carboniferous metavolcanic rocks
	CP	Pennsylvanian marine	
	CM	Mississippian marine	
	D	Devonian marine	D ^v Devonian metavolcanic rocks
	S	Silurian marine	D ^{v?} Devonian and pre-Devonian? metavolcanic rocks
	pSs	Pre-Silurian meta-sedimentary rocks	pS Pre-Silurian metamorphic rocks
	O	Ordovician marine	pSv Pre-Silurian metavolcanic rocks
	C	Cambrian marine	
	pc	Cambrian - Precambrian marine	pC Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rock complex
PRECAMBRIAN	pc	Undivided Precambrian metamorphic rocks pcg = gneiss, pcs = schist	pcg Undivided Precambrian granitic rocks
	lpc	Later Precambrian sedimentary and metamorphic rocks	pcg Precambrian anorthosite
	ec	Earlier Precambrian metamorphic rocks	

II. GEOLOGY

We found no information on the general geology of the Red Mountain GRA more detailed than that provided by the Jennings and Strand (1960) Ukiah sheet of the Geologic Map of California. Other references are brief descriptions of specific manganese or chromite occurrences that shed no light on the complex structure or lithology, and in most of them the locations of the occurrences are so unspecific that they have little meaning even as occurrence descriptions. This section on geology, then, is not as comprehensive as we could wish.

1. PHYSIOGRAPHY

The Red Mountain GRA is located within the Coast Range geomorphic province in northern Mendocino County, California. The study area is due east of the town of Leggett which is between Piercy and Cummings on U. S. Highway 101.

The topography is dominated by high ridges and narrow valleys which trend northwest parallel to the regional structure of the rocks. Elevations range from about 4,000 feet at Red Mountain to 1,000 feet in the lowest valleys.

Three northwest trending, east dipping belts of Mesozoic marine sediments occur in the study area. These formations are separated from one another by two northwest-trending faults which converge to the south bounding an ultramafic intrusive body.

2. ROCK UNITS

The GRA lies astride the junction of two northwest-trending faults that evidently have very large displacement. Jennings and Strand (1960) show four rock units here, all of them mostly Cretaceous.

East of the faults is a very extensive terrane underlain by the Jurassic/Cretaceous Franciscan Formation, which Page (1966) describes as a disorderly assemblage of rocks. It includes deep-water sediments and mafic marine volcanic material, all locally accompanied by masses of serpentine, and all of which have undergone unsystematic disturbance.

West of the faults are rocks shown by Jennings and Strand (1960) as undivided Cretaceous marine rocks, but shown by Page (1966) as part of the Franciscan Formation. Between the faults is a northwest-trending strip of upper Cretaceous marine rocks about three miles wide.

Also between the faults at their intersection is a body of ultramafic rocks three miles wide at most, and about six miles long (Jennings and Strand, 1960). Page considers that the ultramafic bodies intruded into the Franciscan and related sedimentary rocks are probably segments of mantle rock torn loose by the intense tectonism the Franciscan has undergone. The ultrabasic body underlies much of WSA CA 050-132, and the lateritic soil that results from the weathering of it is the locus of the nickel-cobalt-chromite mineralization that represents the known mineral potential of the WSA.

3. STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY AND TECTONICS

As has been mentioned, two major northwest-trending faults transect the GRA. No other faults are known in the GRA, and all other faults mapped (Jennings and Strand, 1960) in the region also trend northwest. Clearly there are a great many faults -- and so poorly exposed is this terrane that few workers have attempted to sort them out anywhere in the Franciscan. Page (1960) characterizes the situation thus: "Viewed in broad perspective, the entire Franciscan might be regarded as a gigantic tectonic zone at the fringe of the continent".

4. PALEONTOLOGY

Lithostratigraphic units within the Red Mountain GRA with paleontological potential include Upper Cretaceous marine clastics (Ku), undivided marine Cretaceous (K) and undivided Franciscan Formation rocks (Kjf) of Juro-Cretaceous age. Quaternary nonmarine terrace deposits (Qt) have low potential for paleontological resources, although they may contain reworked fossils from underlying strata. Of those units present within the GRA, the Upper Cretaceous (Ku) has the highest probability of containing fossils, and several localities are known to occur within this unit but outside the GRA boundary; no localities are definitely known to be recorded from within the area. The lithology of the Wilderness Study Area 050-132 is mostly Mesozoic ultrabasic rocks (ub), which have no potential for paleontology.

5. HISTORICAL GEOLOGY

An extremely thick sequence of marine rocks, partly sedimentary and partly volcanic, were deposited in the Jurassic and Cretaceous to produce the Franciscan Formation. Some structural complexity may have been introduced by submarine sliding soon after the rocks were deposited, but a great deal of complexity resulted from extreme tectonic activity in the region that started perhaps not long after deposition. In the Late Cretaceous marine sediments were deposited over the Franciscan. With continued tectonic

activity slabs of mantle material were torn loose and intruded into the marine rocks to produce scattered bodies of ultramafic rocks.

Weathering of the ultramafic bodies, and specifically the one that underlies WSA CA 050-132, produced nickel-cobalt-chromium concentrations.

III. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

A. METALLIC MINERAL RESOURCES

1. Known Mineral Deposits

According to Dow and Thayer (1946) the Guthrie property on Red Mountain shipped 100 tons of chromite ore from the largest of its deposits. This publication implies that additional ore was shipped from other deposits on the property. The location of the mine(s) is not specified.

Susan L. Skinner (1982), Geologist with the Ukiah District Office of BLM provided an outline of the overall distribution of lateritic soil derived from the ultrabasic body on the Noble Butte and Leggett 7 1/2-minute topographic quadrangles.

Steven D. Van Nort (1982), Exploration Geologist, Coastal Mining Company, provided parts of the same topographic maps, with an overlay showing "significant concentrations of nickel and cobalt" with the locations of 33 drill holes in and near the areas of concentrations that are within the boundary of WSA CA 050-132, and with a copy of an explanatory letter dated April 5, 1979 to Bruce Cann, of the Ukiah District office. These, too, are in the GRA file.

According to James Bright (1982), drilling in the Red Mountain area during the mid-1950's delineated about 30 million tons of laterite averaging 0.79% nickel. It is Mr. Bright's understanding that further drilling by Coastal Mining Company in the late 1970's expanded this to about 40 million tons of 0.8% nickel. He says that there is cobalt present, but the values are very low. He did not mention chromite.

Kirby and others (1982), in a largely-metallurgical report, present analyses of laterites from four localities, which show the nickel contents ranging from 0.74% to 1.12%, 0.06% to 0.1% cobalt and 1.29% to 1.44% chromium. The sample from "Red Flats", which is not otherwise identified but may be a misnomer for Red Mountain, contained 1.01% nickel, 0.06% cobalt and 1.42% chromium.

2. Known Prospects, Mineral Occurrences and Mineralized Areas

There are no known metallic mineral prospects, occurrences of mineralized areas in the GRA other than the areas described above.

3. Mining Claims

There are no patented claims in the GRA. There is a band of sections about six miles long north-south and two miles wide east-west in which it appears that all public land has been covered by unpatented claims. This band of claims covers both of the areas indicated by Mr. Van Nort as having significant nickel and cobalt values, as well as the red soil area between them. It covers the central part of WSA CA 050-132, probably more than half the total area of the WSA.

4. Mineral Deposit Types

The chromite deposits and the nickel/cobalt deposits of the GRA were formed somewhat differently, although they occur essentially together in the lateritic soil formed by weathering of the ultrabasic intrusive rock. The chromite occurs in small pods a few inches to a few feet thick and a few feet to fifty feet long (Dow and Thayer, 1946). These are magmatic segregations which were formed when the chromite crystallized out of the still-liquid ultrabasic magma and settled to somewhere near the bottom of the magma chamber as a layer of more or less pure chromite crystals. The poddy character presently displayed, probably results from the original fairly-continuous layer of chromite being torn into relatively small shreds -- the pods -- when the still semi-liquid, or perhaps solid mass of ultrabasic rock, was intruded into its present position. Although the pods that are seen are in the laterite zone where the ultrabasic rock has been weathered, it is certain that their counterparts are to be found in unweathered ultrabasic rock at greater depth.

The nickel and cobalt also are part of the original ultrabasic rock, and may also have resided originally in minerals that crystallized out of the magma and settled, to enrich part of the magma in nickel and cobalt. However, the nickel and cobalt minerals which were probably sulfide minerals, were not resistant to weathering. Instead, they disintegrated in the weathering process and some of their components were dissolved and washed away, but the nickel and cobalt remained in place, chemically rearranged into a new set of minerals. Probably the entire mass of ultrabasic rock originally had small quantities of nickel and cobalt minerals scattered more or less uniformly through it, unlike the chromite, which was concentrated in the pods in which it still occurs.

Both the chromite and the nickel/cobalt do have one feature in common. The lateritic soil in which they occur was formed by the weathering of the ultrabasic rock, which involved literally dissolving much of the rock and washing

away the dissolved components. Since neither the chromite nor the nickel and cobalt were dissolved and washed away, the effect of this was to concentrate them in the material that remained -- the lateritic soil. This weathering and concentration took place some millions of years ago, at a time when the climate was probably subtropical and the land surface was essentially a flat plain rather than the present very steep, hilly terrane. The present lateritic soil, and the chromite and nickel/cobalt deposits, are the remnants of that period of weathering. Most of the laterite and the valuable minerals were eroded away as the present surface was being formed.

5. Mineral Economics

"U.S. nickel reserves total about 360,000 tons in lateritic material containing 0.8% to 1.3% nickel. All are in deposits at the operating mine near Riddle, Oregon. Other nickeliferous lateritic deposits are in Oregon, California and Washington; and some parts of these deposits are as high grade as the reserves at Riddle, but they are not mineable at a profit under current economic conditions." (Matthews and Sibley, 1980).

The Red Mountain nickel deposits are undoubtedly included in those mentioned by Matthews and Sibley as not being mineable at a profit under current conditions. The mine at Riddle closed down in 1982 after some 20 years of operation, apparently having become uneconomic because of the combined effects of a world-wide glut of nickel and the increasing cost of electricity needed for its processing.

The grade of the nickel deposit at Red Mountain is about the same as the lower grade ore reserves at Riddle; it is submarginal, but not greatly so. The current glut of nickel is likely to continue for some years, since there are several large deposits that have been developed or partly developed in the past ten years. However, the glut will eventually end, and in all likelihood the Red Mountain deposit will then become economic. It is one of the few potentially economic deposits of nickel known in the United States.

More than 90 percent of nickel used is in the form of metal, mostly in alloys where it imparts corrosion resistance, strength, and other desired characteristics. The remaining uses include batteries, dyes, insecticides and as a catalyst. For the past twenty years United States production of nickel ranged between 10 thousand and 20 thousand tons, but in 1982 the single nickel mine in the country, at Riddle, Oregon, ceased operation and presently there is no domestic production except for small quantities as byproducts of smelting. United States

demand is close to 200 thousand tons per year, most of which is imported from Canada. Nickel is listed as a strategic and critical metal. United States demand is forecast to about double by the year 2000, but the best forecast for production falls far short of that quantity, and the most pessimistic estimates foresee no domestic nickel production. The price of nickel at the end of 1982 was \$3.29 per pound.

Cobalt is used mostly in heat- and wear-resistant materials such as alloys for jet engine parts and the metal matrix of tungsten carbide cutting tools. Substantial amounts are used in permanent magnets, and as dryers or pigments in paints, with lesser uses in glassmaking and ceramics. The United States uses about 20 million pounds per year and produces none. The principal suppliers are Zaire (more than half of U. S. imports) and Zambia, with lesser amounts from several other countries. Cobalt consumption in the United States is forecast to increase by about fifty percent by the year 2000; domestic production is forecast to be zero in 2000, but possible production is estimated at 20 to 30 percent of demand. The price of cobalt is about \$25 per pound.

Chromium is one of modern industry's essential and versatile elements. About 60 percent of it is used in a very wide range of metallurgical alloys, especially stainless steel, and 10 percent is used in refractory linings for furnaces and kilns. Ten percent is used in chemicals, and another 10 percent in miscellaneous applications. The familiar chrome plate, as on automobile bumpers, actually accounts for an almost-infinitesimal part of total use. United States consumption of chromium is about one-half million short tons per year, all of which is imported and nearly all from the Eastern Hemisphere. Chromium is listed as a strategic and critical metal. United States consumption is forecast to about double by the year 2000, and domestic production is forecast to remain at zero. The price of chromite, the mine-product mineral from which chromium is extracted, is somewhat over \$100 per ton, but can vary quite widely as a result of political actions in the producing nations.

B. NONMETALLIC MINERAL RESOURCES

1. Known Mineral Deposits

No nonmetallic mineral deposits are known in WSA Ca 050-132. Some chromite is used as a refractory in furnace linings and similar high-temperature applications. In that usage it is essentially a nonmetallic mineral, as opposed to being a metallic mineral when used in the chemical industry, or in the metallurgical industry for making alloys. The use that was made of chromite produced

from Red Mountain is not known, so it is considered in this report as having been used for metallurgical applications and thus as a metallic mineral.

2. Known Prospects, Mineral Occurrences and Mineralized Areas

No nonmetallic prospects, mineral occurrences or mineralized areas are known in WSA CA 050-132.

3. Mining Claims, Leases and Material Sites

No mining claims located for nonmetallic minerals can be distinguished in WSA CA 050-132.

No nonmetallic mineral leases and no material sites are known in WSA CA 050-132.

4. Mineral Deposit Types

There are no nonmetallic mineral deposits to be described.

5. Mineral Economics

There are no nonmetallic minerals, the economics of which to consider.

C. ENERGY RESOURCES

Uranium and Thorium Resources

1. Known Mineral Deposits

There are no known uranium or thorium deposits in the WSA or GRA.

2. Known Prospects, Mineral Occurrences and Mineralized Areas

There are no known uranium or thorium occurrences in the WSA or GRA. The only known radioactive occurrences in the area are two uranium and four thorium aerial radiometric anomalies which occur over Jurassic-Cretaceous marine sediments (Western Geophysical Company of America, 1981) to the east of the GRA. These occurrences are indicated on the Uranium Land Classification and Mineral Occurrence Map, included in this report.

3. Mining Claims

There are no known uranium or thorium claims or leases in the WSA or GRA.

4. Mineral Deposit Types

Uranium and thorium deposit types cannot be discussed due to the lack of such deposits in the WSA or GRA.

5. Mineral Economics

Uranium and thorium are probably of no economic value in the WSA or GRA due to the lack of occurrences of these elements.

Oil and Gas Resources

There are no oil and gas fields, hydrocarbon shows in wells, or surface seeps in the region, and the Mesozoic Franciscan Formation of deep-water sediments and marine volcanic material is not a promising source/reservoir rock sequence. There are no Federal oil and gas leases in the GRA, but there are four sections under lease just outside the GRA (see Oil and Gas Lease Map). There is no oil and gas occurrence and land classification map in this report.

Geothermal Resources.

1. Known Geothermal Deposits

There are no geothermal deposits present in the GRA.

2. Known Prospects, Geothermal Occurrences and Geothermal Areas

There are no known geothermal occurrences within the GRA. Eight miles to the southeast Jackson Valley Mud Springs (27°C at 1 l/min) and Pinches Spring (21°C at 190 l/min.) represent the closest known thermal waters (Geothermal Occurrence and Land Classification Map).

3. Geothermal Leases

There are no geothermal leases or lease applications in the region, and no geothermal lease map is included in this report.

4. Geothermal Deposit Types

There are no geothermal resources of record within the Red Mountain GRA.

5. Geothermal Economics

There are no geothermal resources of record within the Red Mountain GRA.

Geothermal resources are utilized in the form of hot water or steam normally captured by means of drilling wells to a depth of a few feet to over 10,000 feet in depth. The fluid temperature, sustained flow rate and water chemistry characteristics of a geothermal reservoir determine the depth to which it will be economically feasible to drill and develop each site.

Higher temperature resources (above 350°F) are currently being used to generate electrical power in Utah and California, and in a number of foreign countries. As fuel costs rise and technology improves, the lower temperature limit for power will decrease appreciably -- especially for remote sites.

All thermal waters can be beneficially used in some way, including fish farming (68°F), warm water for year around mining in cold climates (86°F), residential space heating (122°F), greenhouses by space heating (176°F), drying of vegetables (212°F), extraction of salts by evaporation and crystallization (266°F), and drying of diatomaceous earth (338°F).

Unlike most mineral commodities remoteness of resource location is not a drawback. Domestic and commercial use of natural thermal springs and shallow wells in the Basin and Range province is a historical fact for over 100 years.

Development and maintenance of a resource for beneficial use may mean no dollars or hundreds of millions of dollars, depending on the resource characteristics, the end use and the intensity or level of use.

D. OTHER GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

No other geological resources are known in WSA CA 050-132.

E. STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS AND METALS

A list of strategic and critical minerals and metals provided by the BLM was used as a guideline for the discussion of strategic and critical materials in this report.

The Stockpile Report to the Congress, October 1981-March 1982, states that the term "strategic and critical materials" refers to materials that would be needed to supply the industrial, military and essential civilian needs of the United States during a national emergency and are not found or produced in the United States in sufficient quantities to meet such need. The report does not define a distinction between strategic and critical minerals.

Nickel, cobalt and chromium are all strategic and critical metals. The United States is dependent upon imports for virtually all its needs from all three metals, and there are very few deposits of any of them in the United States that are potentially mineable even under circumstances in which profitability is not an important factor.

IV. LAND CLASSIFICATION FOR G-E-M RESOURCES POTENTIAL

The quality of published geological mapping in the GRA is abysmally low: it is at a scale of 1:250,000 with only very gross structures shown. This is excusable in view of the combination of extremely complex structure and poor exposures. Information concerning chromite occurrences is very poor, principally because locations are indefinite. Information about the ultrabasic body in which the nickel-cobalt-chromite bodies occur, and about the bodies themselves, is very good, thanks to the maps provided by Skinner (1982) and Van Nort (1982). Information about tonnages and grades, though general and unsupported by hard data, is good. Overall, the data on mineral resources is good, better than in most GRAs, except for the lack of verifiable backup.

Land classification areas are numbered starting with the number 1 in each category of resources. Metallic mineral land classification areas have the prefix M, e.g., M1-4D. Uranium and thorium areas have the prefix U. Nonmetallic mineral areas have the prefix N. Oil and gas areas have the prefix OG. Geothermal areas have the prefix G. Sodium and potassium areas have the prefix S. The saleable resources are classified under the nonmetallic mineral resource section. Both the Classification Scheme, numbers 1 through 4, and the Level of Confidence Scheme, letters A, B, C and D, as supplied by the BLM are included as attachments to this report. These schemes were used as strict guidelines in developing the mineral classification areas used in this report.

Land classifications have been made here only for the areas that encompass segments of the WSA. Where data outside a WSA has been used in establishing a classification area within a WSA, then at least a part of the surrounding area may also be included for clarification. The classified areas are shown on the 1:250,000 mylars or the prints of those that accompany each copy of this report.

In connection with nonmetallic mineral classification, it should be noted that in all instances areas mapped as alluvium are classified as having moderate favorability for sand and gravel, with moderate confidence, since alluvium is by definition sand and gravel. All areas mapped as principally limestone or dolomite have a similar classification since these rocks are usable for cement or lime production. All areas mapped as other rock, if they do not have specific reason for a different classification, are classified as having low favorability, with low confidence, for nonmetallic mineral potential, since any mineral material can at least be used in construction applications.

1. LOCATABLE RESOURCES

a. Metallic Minerals

WSA CA 050-132

M1-4D, M2-4D, M3-4D. These three areas are all geologically the same -- they are areas of nickeliferous laterite. The outlines on the Metallic Mineral Occurrence and Land Classification Map are taken from the 1" = 2,000' map provided by Mr. Van Nort of Coastal Mining which is in the GRA file. Rather small edge areas of each classification area extend into WSA CA 050-132. In these areas there have been at least three separate, extensive exploration programs by industry: in the early 1950s by Freeport Mining Company(?), in the mid-1950s by Union Carbide Corporation (Bright, 1982), and in the late 1970s until about the present by Coastal Mining Company. There has also been at least one sampling program by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, in the late 1970s (Rice, 1982). According to Mr. Bright (1982) the industry programs at least indicated, if they did not prove, 30 or 40 million tons of material with about 0.8% nickel. The tonnages and grade are probably sufficient to support a mine under the proper economic conditions, although the material could by no means be mined under the present economic conditions. It is worth noting also that nickel is a strategic and critical mineral, and the deposits might be mined regardless of the economics in some world-wide political situations. This is the reasoning behind the classification of 4.

The tonnage and grade figures are hearsay, without documentary backup, but the fact that three companies explored the area in sequence tends to support them at least generally. Coastal may not have had available to it all the information from the earlier projects, but at the very least it picked up through the mining industry rumor mill the knowledge that those projects indicated substantial tonnage of material with high enough grade that it might be worth mining. Otherwise, Coastal would not have tackled the project. On this line of reasoning, the quoted tonnage and grade seem reasonable. This is the reasoning behind the D level of confidence.

M4-3B. This area encompasses all of the area of the "lateritic soil" as outlined on the map in the GRA file provided by Ms. Skinner (1982), except those parts included in M1, M2 and M3. It covers the middle of WSA CA 050-132. It is the area in which red soil indicates that the ultrabasic body lies beneath the surface. The red soil is not necessarily laterite, however. The laterite was produced by slow weathering of the ultrabasic rock over a very long period of time, during which many components of the rock were leached away but the nickel,

cobalt and chromite remained behind and became enriched because the other materials were removed. Such weathering happened at Red Mountain only during a period some millions of years ago. Modern weathering of the ultrabasic rock produces the same red-colored soil, but it is rapidly washed away on the steep present-day slopes, so there is no chance for the nickel, cobalt and chromite to accumulate and make a relatively metallic-enriched soil. The lateritic soil areas of M1, M2 and M3 lie on relatively broad flat mesas that have the highest elevations in their vicinity. The broad flat tops are the remnants of the plain on which the laterites were developed. Between these areas elevations are lower and slopes are steeper. The lateritic soils, if they were developed here, have been eroded away by modern erosion.

With this interpretation, the lower, steeper slopes cannot have laterite, and therefore probably can not have potentially economic nickel deposits. However, Bright (1982) points out that the laterite area of Little Red Mountain, classification area M3, is appreciably lower than the laterite areas on Red Mountain. He considers that there is a post-laterite fault between the two mountains, and that the south side of this has been dropped relative to the north side. This is a reasonable way to account for the difference in elevation. However, if there is one fault, it is possible there are other faults -- perhaps many faults -- and these faults may have dropped other segments of the laterite zone to lower elevations. Apparently no additional segments of laterite zone have been found, but it is possible that they are present but hidden under scree and other debris from the slopes above. This is the reasoning behind the classification of 3 and the confidence level of B.

M5-1A. This is the area surrounding the classification areas described above -- the area of Franciscan and other Cretaceous sediments surrounding the body of ultrabasic rocks. It covers the eastern and western parts of WSA CA 050-132. There is no potential for nickel-cobalt-chromite mineralization such as occurs in the ultrabasic rock. These sedimentary rocks are not known to have potential for any mineralization in this area, although elsewhere manganese deposits are known to occur in them. This is the reason for the classification of 1, and the level of confidence of A. There is no reason to anticipate mineralization here, but there is no evidence that there is none.

b. Uranium and Thorium

WSA CA 050-132

U1-1A. This land classification covers all of the WSA and GRA. The area is covered by Mesozoic sediments which were derived largely from mafic volcanic rocks and ultrabasic intrusive rocks. The sedimentary rocks are possible host rocks for uranium deposits, but the mafic to ultramafic igneous rocks exposed in the area are very poor sources of uranium. For this reason the area has no known favorability for uranium deposits at a very low level of confidence.

The lack of granitic or pegmatitic source rocks in the vicinity makes the area unfavorable for thorium deposits.

c. Nonmetallic Minerals

WSA CA 050-132

N1-2B. This land classification area covers all of the WSA and the GRA. No nonmetallic mineral occurrences are known in the GRA. However, any mineral material can become an economically mineable commodity if someone can capitalize on its particular characteristics to develop a market for it. This is the reason for the low favorability classification and the low level of confidence in the classification.

2. LEASABLE RESOURCES

a. Oil and Gas

WSA CA 050-132

OG1-1D. There has been no recorded oil and gas drilling in the WSA, GRA or vicinity. This sector of the Coast Ranges is underlain by the highly distorted Franciscan Formation not known to be a promising section for the generation or accumulation of hydrocarbons.

b. Geothermal

WSA CA 050-132

G1-2A. This classification encompasses the entire GRA. The general region immediately to the south has many geothermal occurrences, and there is some structural continuity extending northward into the WSA.

c. Sodium and Potassium

Sl-1D. The entire GRA has no known potential for either sodium or potassium resources, and is classified 1D for these commodities. No map for sodium and potassium is presented.

3. SALEABLE RESOURCES

Saleable resources are included in the section on Nonmetallic Minerals, above.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL WORK

1. Any field work that might be done by or for the BLM is almost certain to be a duplication of work similar to that which has already been done by at least a couple of mining companies, and perhaps several. Therefore, no field work is recommended.
2. The report made by the U. S. Bureau of Mines on its 1979 work is confidential, but perhaps can be acquired by the BLM as a fellow Federal agency. Its confidentiality probably would have to be preserved, but perhaps it could be released to the public with the approval of Coastal Mining Company. According to Mr. Rice the work was confined to the known laterite areas, which are already known to have high nickel concentrations, so it may have little to add other than confirmation (or negation) of the points concerning them made in the present report. It will not add any information that might modify the classification of area M4, about which very little is really known.
3. An effort should be made to get detailed information from the companies that have worked in the area. Freeport and Union Carbide presumably are no longer interested in the area, and might be free with their information. Coastal Mining may be more difficult. The objective should be to get data on the area of M4; data that might indicate where there could be undiscovered fault segments of nickeliferous laterite, or alternatively, might indicate that there are no such segments.

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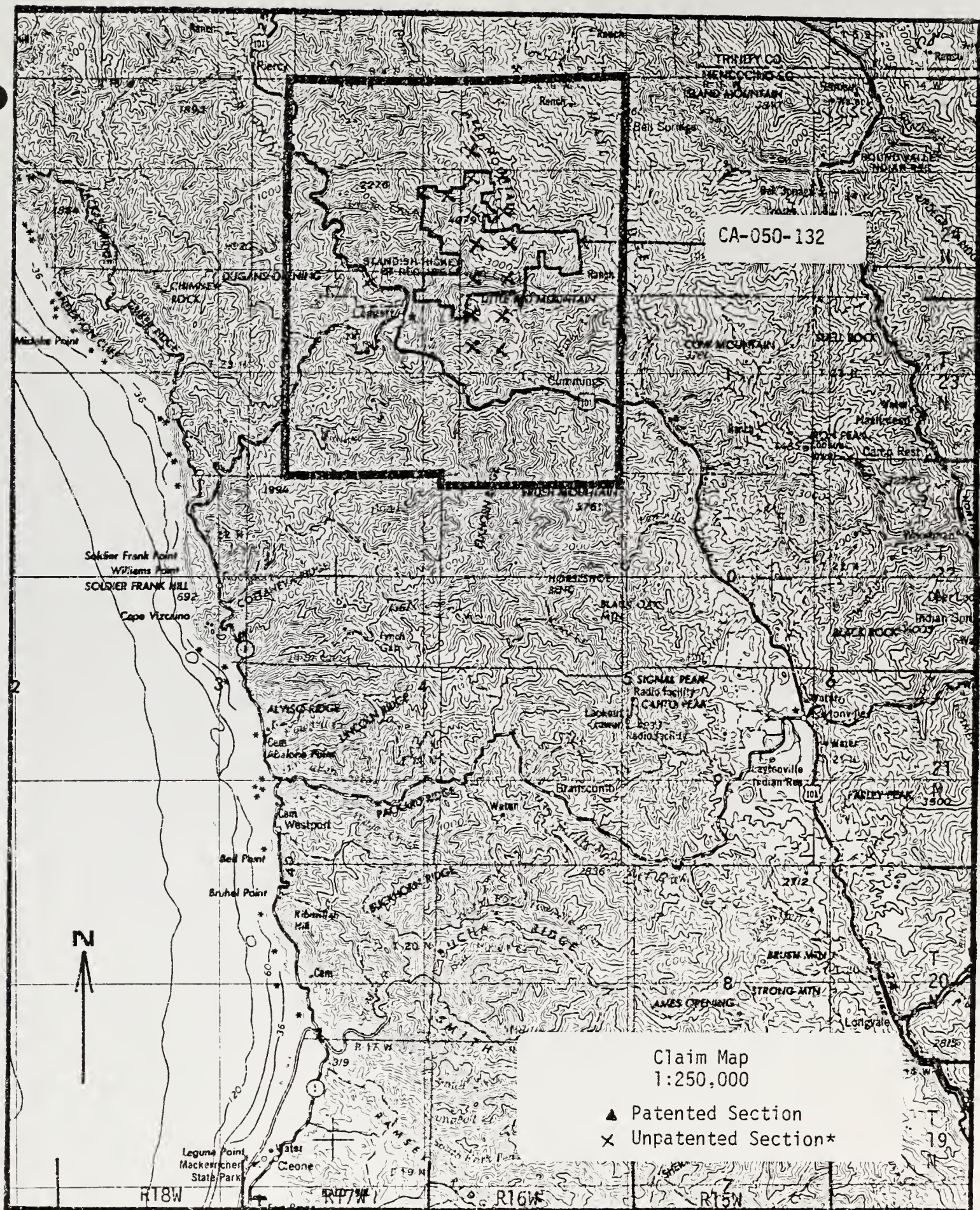
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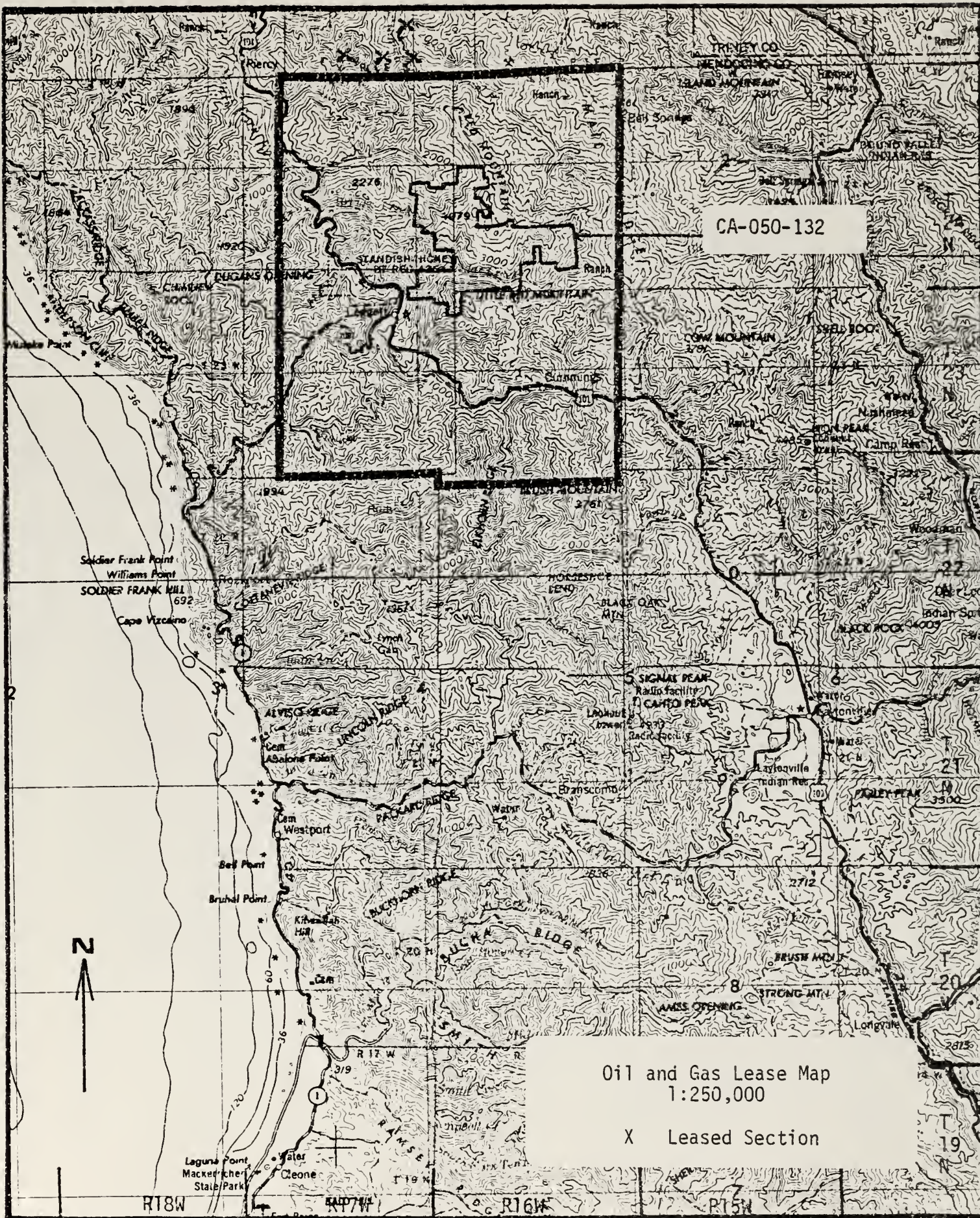
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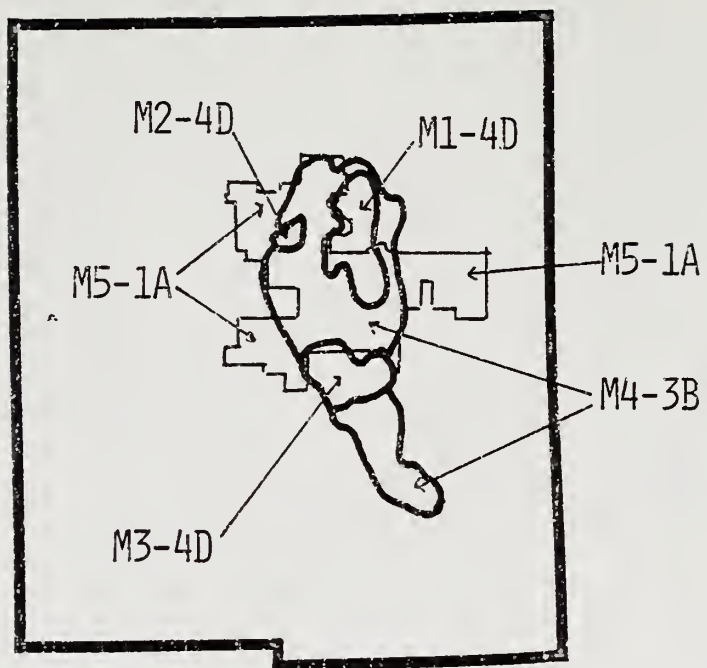
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EXPLANATION

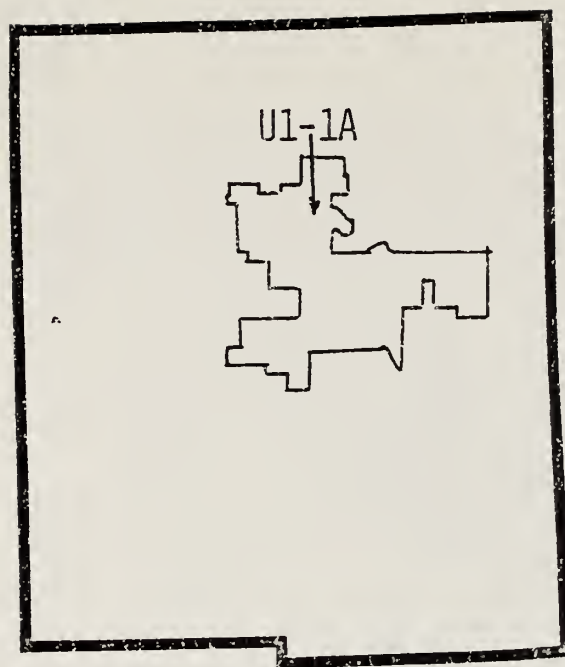
— WSA Boundary

— Land Classification Boundary

Land Classification - Mineral Occurrence Map/Metallics

Red Mountain GRA CA-12

Scale 1:250,000

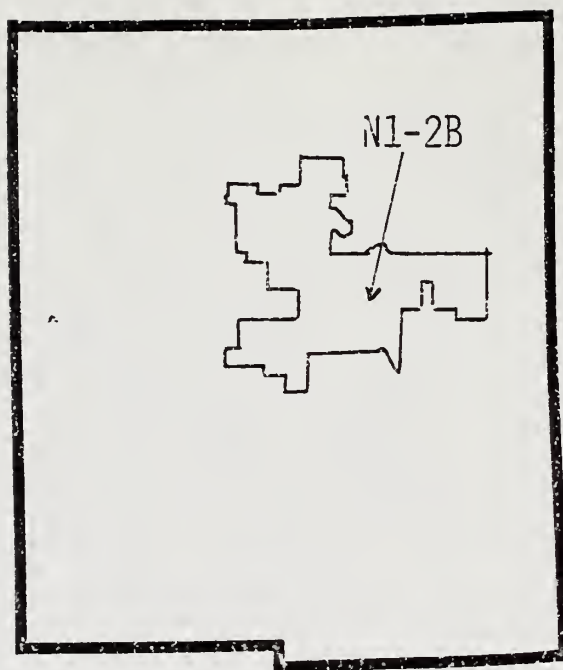


EXPLANATION

- Uranium Occurrence
- WSA and Land Classification Boundary

Land Classification - Mineral Occurrence Map/Uranium

Red Mountain GRA CA-12
Scale 1:250,000



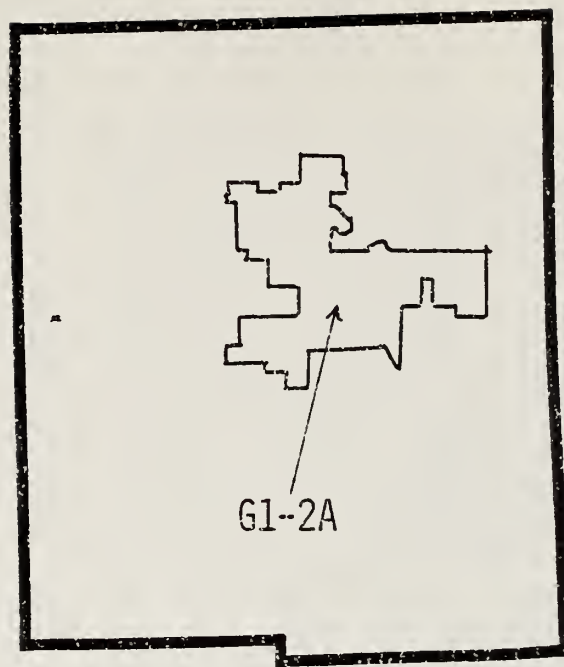
EXPLANATION

— WSA and Land Classification Boundary

Land Classification - Mineral Occurrence Map/Nonmetallics

Red Mountain GRA CA-12

Scale 1:250,000



G1-2A

EXPLANATION

Thermal spring

WSA and Land Classification Boundary

Land Classification - Mineral Occurrence Map/Geothermal

Red Mountain GRA CA-12

Scale 1:250,000

LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE SCHEME

- A. THE AVAILABLE DATA ARE EITHER INSUFFICIENT AND/OR CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS DIRECT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT OR REFUTE THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF MINERAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE RESPECTIVE AREA.
- B. THE AVAILABLE DATA PROVIDE INDIRECT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT OR REFUTE THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF MINERAL RESOURCES.
- C. THE AVAILABLE DATA PROVIDE DIRECT EVIDENCE, BUT ARE QUANTITATIVELY MINIMAL TO SUPPORT TO REFUTE THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF MINERAL RESOURCES.
- D. THE AVAILABLE DATA PROVIDE ABUNDANT DIRECT AND INDIRECT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT OR REFUTE THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF MINERAL RESOURCES.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

1. THE GEOLOGIC ENVIRONMENT AND THE INFERRED GEOLOGIC PROCESSES DO NOT INDICATE FAVORABILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES.
2. THE GEOLOGIC ENVIRONMENT AND THE INFERRED GEOLOGIC PROCESSES INDICATE LOW FAVORABILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES.
3. THE GEOLOGIC ENVIRONMENT, THE INFERRED GEOLOGIC PROCESSES, AND THE REPORTED MINERAL OCCURRENCES INDICATE MODERATE FAVORABILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES.
4. THE GEOLOGIC ENVIRONMENT, THE INFERRED GEOLOGIC PROCESSES, THE REPORTED MINERAL OCCURRENCES, AND THE KNOWN MINES OR DEPOSITS INDICATE HIGH FAVORABILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES.

**MAJOR STRATIGRAPHIC AND TIME DIVISIONS IN USE BY THE
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

Erathem or Era	System or Period		Series or Epoch	Estimated ages of time boundaries in millions of years
Cenozoic	Quaternary		Holocene	
			Pleistocene	2-3 ¹
	Tertiary		Pliocene	12 ¹
			Miocene	26 ²
			Oligocene	37-38
			Eocene	53-54
			Paleocene	65
Mesozoic	Cretaceous ⁴		Upper (Late) Lower (Early)	136
	Jurassic		Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	190-195
	Triassic		Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	225
Paleozoic	Permian ⁴		Upper (Late) Lower (Early)	280
	Carboniferous Systems	Pennsylvanian ⁴	Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	
		Mississippian ⁴	Upper (Late) Lower (Early)	345
	Devonian		Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	395
	Silurian ⁴		Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	430-440
	Ordovician ⁴		Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	500
	Cambrian ⁴		Upper (Late) Middle (Middle) Lower (Early)	570
Precambrian ⁴			Informal subdivisions such as upper, middle, and lower, or upper and lower, or younger and older may be used locally.	3,600+ ³

¹ Holmes, Arthur, 1965, Principles of physical geology: 2d ed., New York, Ronald Press, p. 360-361, for the Pleistocene and Pliocene; and Obradovich, J. D., 1965, Age of marine Pleistocene of California: Am. Assoc. Petroleum Geologists, v. 49, no. 7, p. 1967, for the Pleistocene of southern California.

² Geological Society of London, 1964, The Phanerozoic time-scale: a symposium: Geol. Soc. London, Quart. Journ., v. 120, suppl., p. 260-262, for the Miocene through the Cambrian.

³ Stern, T. W., written commun., 1968, for the Precambrian.

⁴ Includes provincial series accepted for use in U.S. Geological Survey reports.

Terms designating time are in parentheses. Informal time terms early, middle, and late may be used for the eras, and for periods where there is no formal subdivision into Early, Middle, and Late, and for epochs. Informal rock terms lower, middle, and upper may be used where there is no formal subdivision of a system or of a series.

GEOLOGIC NAMES COMMITTEE, 1970

